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CIA Drug Data Weighed for Possible Prosecutions

Turner Says Documents on Human Experiments Have Been Handed Over to Justice Department

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WASHINGTON—Documents relating to the Central Intelligence Agency's testing of drugs on humans have been turned over to the Justice Department for possible legal action, CIA Director Stansfield Turner said Tuesday.

Turner, who in recent Senate testimony called some of the practices "abhorrent," said he thought those responsible should be held accountable, although any decision to prosecute or take disciplinary action might have to be weighed against the risk of damaging intelligence operations.

All relevant CIA records related to testing of drugs on humans or to questionable financial arrangements in such programs have been given to the Justice Department, Turner told a group of reporters during a breakfast interview.

A Justice Department spokesman said summaries of the files were being reviewed by the department's criminal division and its office of legal counsel. Later the summaries probably will be sent to the civil division, which would handle any damage suits that might be filed against the government by persons who contend they were victimized by the experiments.

It appears likely that the department will notify those who have taken part in the experiments, much as it has been notifying victims of the FBI's discontinued COINTELPRO harassment program against individuals and organizations the bureau viewed as subversives and radicals.

Earlier, the CIA had turned over to congress records relating to 149 drug research and mind control projects that had been carried out under the code name MK-ULTRA. In addition, Congress was given the names of 185 researchers and 80 institutions involved in the projects, most of which

were conducted between 1953 and 1964.

Most of the researchers were unaware that the CIA was sponsoring the projects, Turner said.

The CIA, according to Turner, now is "leaving no stone unturned" in its effort to find any subjects who might have been injured by the experiments, which ranged from the use of knockout drops to alteration of sexual patterns.

At a recent hearing of a Senate subcommittee on health and scientific research, Chairman Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) insisted that the CIA attempt to find all unwitting subjects of CIA experiments, as well as researchers and institutions involved, and inform them of how they had been used.

Turner told reporters he knew of no one now in the CIA who had any responsibility for the drug-testing projects.

When asked whether he thought those responsible should be identified, he said he would not object if Kennedy's subcommittee decided to release the identities. "I've assured myself the people working there (the CIA) now have my confidence," he said.

On another matter, Turner disclosed that in the wake of recent espionage cases in California and Maryland he had ordered surprise security checks at a number of CIA contractors.

The results of some of the checks were distressing, he said, and he said he had "let it be known that future (CIA) contracts will be related to my confidence in (the contractors') ability to maintain security."

The cases, he said, had done "very considerable" damage to the country. One of the cases involved Andrew Daulton Lee and Christopher J. Boyce of Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., who

were sentenced to life and six years in prison respectively, for attempting to sell secret records to the Russians. The other case involved Edwin Gibbons Moore II, a former CIA employee from Bethesda, Md., who was sentenced to life for delivering secret CIA documents to a Soviet residence here.

Turner said he was giving considerable attention to the problem of stopping leaks—not only those involved in espionage cases but leaks to the news media, which he said also had damaged national security.

A Washington Post story earlier this year that reported the CIA had paid King Hussein of Jordan millions of dollars over a period of 20 years did the CIA "very severe damage in the long-term intelligence sphere," Turner said.

"Any number of people who have been risking their lives have come up to me and said, 'How can I continue to work with you when my name is going to appear in the media tomorrow?' I'm going to break off the relationship."

Turner said he had done what he could to persuade such CIA operatives to continue working.